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Damage Control Association

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for

May 1986

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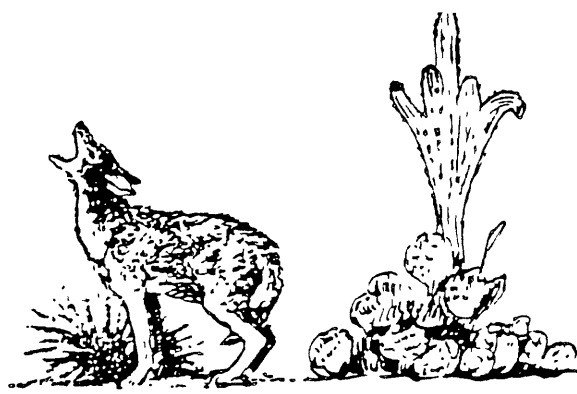
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THE PROBE



National Animal Damage Control Association

MAY, 1986

NUMBER 63

DEFACING MOTHER NATURE

Long rays of early morning sunlight filter through the mist that hovers low over the river's surface. A doe and fawn pose like statues as my canoe glides quietly near. The mood is complete tranquillity and should be recorded. I set my paddle across the gunwales and pick up my camera. As I focus on the scene, I hear myself emit an involuntary "DAMN !" Just beyond the deer rises a rock bluff. Emblazoned on its side in 3-foot white spray paint letters is "Troop 29".

This little drama is disturbing to say the least but it is far from uncommon nor is it anything new. Ever since man crawled around caves he has been driven by the urge to paint, scratch, or carve his mark to let unknowns who come later realize he had been there before them.

At Natural Bridge (VA), when he was a surveyor, the father of our country, carved "G.W." on the rock wall. For someone who reportedly put the hatchet to a perfectly good cherry tree, maybe this was to be expected. His initials, however, have now become a shrine and are as much part of the tourist attraction as the work of nature itself.

At El Moro (NM), Spanish conquistadors and later, the pioneers in passing wagon trains, carved their names all over the sides of a whole mountain. It is now a national monument. During World War II, there were but few places on earth where Kilroy did not leave his mark.

Add to all this the graffiti found on the walls of johns, phone booths, and bus stations, and one may begin to speculate that such a thing as a clean unmarked surface may soon be making the endangered list. What is it that moves people to such actions ? Surely the psychologists have their answers. Whatever the explanation, the clutter is tasteless and distracting wherever it appears; but when it disfigures some object of our natural environment, the cut is more unkind than that of Brutus. What is even less understandable is that we not only seem to condone such acts, but apparently go to the extreme of promoting and glamourizing them. The case of Mt. Rushmore is going a tad too far. So our red brothers will achieve equal acclaim, Chief Crazy Horse and his noble steed are even now being chiseled and blasted on the side of still another South Dakota mountain. It is said the work of the artist will be immortal. The mountain's existence in its natural state, unfortunately, will not.

All of this must, someday, somehow, come to a screeching halt. We are getting more and more heroes and fewer and fewer mountains. It is entirely possible that what little our expanding economy and progress may leave native and undefiled, future generations with their jackhammers and blasting caps will not overlook. Our wilderness and our natural wonders go hand in hand; and when their magnificence behoves the beholders to ponder their own smallness, then there can be no such thing as too much

wilderness preservation. For what better legacy could we pass on to our descendants than such a priceless heritage as this? (Jack Kerins, OUTDOOR ETHICS, 5(2):1,5 (1986)) (Pardon this departure from ADC, but I have a personal vendetta against graffiti and other forms of vandalism.)



Dogs are dumb animals, but look who works so hard to feed them!

THEY NEVER GIVE UP

An editorial in my unfavorite newspaper (THE WASHINGTON POST 30 Apr 86 p.A23) blasts EPA for considering the easing of controls on the M-44 (spring-propelled cyanide coyote getter). Using a majority of quotes from such truth seekers as DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE (DW) and THE AUDUBON SOCIETY (TAS), the editorial claims that eliminating the requirement that the rancher should know where every M-44 is set would be (quoting Butler, TAS) "...wildly unwise ...even the Easter Bunny (should we tell him thar ain't no such animal as well as no Santy Claus?) forgets where he hides all his eggs, and his eggs don't explode, shooting cyanide in the face of those subsequently discovering them."

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is quoted as wanting permanent permission to use M-44s on wildlife refuges to kill coyotes depredating on eggs and young birds. They claim 14 whooping crane

eggs and as many as 50 flightless young have been killed by coyotes in the last decade on Gray's Lake Wildlife Refuge in Idaho. Coyotes are also depredating on the rare Mississippi sandhill crane as well.

DW says the M-44 has killed endangered species like a California condor in 1983, a grizzly bear in the late 1970s, and a sandhill crane last November. "These incidents prove the M-44 is non-selective and is dangerous to the species Interior seeks to protect..." DW told EPA "...aerial shooting of predators would be more effective and cheaper." (Cheaper!? They should pay our chopper costs.) Then quoting Butler again - "Having been successful with Compound 1080 (Successful!? We only got the collar.), they think they might as well loosen up on the M-44 while the going is good. The next step will be to hand them out like Roman candles on the fourth of July." Thanx to RD Johnny Jones, Bethesda, MD.

Honest confession is good for the soul but hard on the reputation.

SPEAKING OF M-44S

RD Milt Caroline (San Antonio, TX) sent us another view on this removal of restrictions on the M-44s by EPA (LIVESTOCK WEEKLY, 17 Apr 86, p8-9). Due to a combination of personnel changes in EPA and a trade off of interest to environmentalists, EPA seems willing to concede that its restrictions placed on M-44s in 1975 when they finally permitted their use again might be unnecessary. EPA's rules strictly limited the M-44 to the purpose of protecting "livestock and poultry". Thus USFWS had to get special permission to use an illegal technique to protect whoopers and other waterfowl on wildlife refuges. Permits had to be renewed annually and a ruling questioning the validity of such oft-renewed permits provided the final push to gain official recognition of the need for changing the regulations. EPA played this game with the use of strychnine baits in rabid skunk programs in Montana, etc. When it was ruled that "emergency" permits should be just that and not evasion of

regulations to take care of a long term problem, the environmentalists were in 'hog heaven' because longtime EPA staffers had never granted serious consideration to the registration of any predator control toxicant with the possible exception of the highly-restricted M-44. But a few key personnel switches in EPA's Office of Pesticides Programs made it a new ball game. Now the environmentalists pet 'emergency' permits to protect the whoopers is in the same hopper with the 'emergency' skunk baiting programs.

Other changes contemplated are the reduction in density limitations - no more than 12 M-44s can be placed on a given section of land according to current rules. They are considering to leave density entirely to the discretion of field personnel with the direction of using the minimum number necessary to do the job. New ruling would only prohibit placement of M-44s within 30 feet of a carcass draw station compared to current restrictions which also limit total number of devices to 4/station and 3 stations/section.

Modification of inspection rate from once per week to once every four weeks. Elimination of current requirement that an "elevated sign" be placed within 6 feet of an M-44 device. The sign could be moved out to 50 feet which reduces the incidence of tampering with the device. They have also realized the absurdity of locator maps and speculation on every discharge. In their arguments for the use of M-44s, the USFWS cited the 8-year history under special permit at Gray's Lake Refuge. They killed 47 coyotes and only 9 "non-target" animals, all of these crows. The interesting thing is not the selectivity of the devices but that EPA appears to be willing to accept field experiences rather than the endless stream of 'properly designed' research data it once demanded.

Another point is that the Gray's Lake project started before the ban on 1080. At that time 1080 bait stations held "coyote numbers in check". After the ban, "...the coyote population increased

rapidly to the point where it became apparent by 1977 that control measures would be necessary if the whooping crane program was to succeed." This is a point of contention between the livestock industry and environmentalists who insist skyrocketing livestock losses following the 1972 ban must be blamed on anything but the ban itself. EPA also denied the connection between predation and the toxicant ban. The current proposal now places the Agency in the uncomfortable position of having to admit that the 1080 bait stations were giving protection EPA said they weren't.

Out of the mouths of babes come words we shouldn't have uttered in their hearing.

CLEANING TRAPS

Al Becker (Jourdan, TX) gives the following instructions on cleaning traps:

- Two 5-gal. plastic buckets w/tops
- One 10-gal. trash can (plastic/metal)
- One box of baking soda
- Three-four gal. muriatic acid
- Trap dye

Pour muriatic acid (3 gal. will treat #3 traps and 4 gal. #4s) into one 5-gallon buckets. In the other 5-gallon bucket add the baking soda in 4 gallons of water. Put the trap dye in the 10-gallon trash can filled with water. Clean the dirt from your traps and attach them to an iron hook. Dip them in the muriatic acid bucket for 15-30 minutes until clean of rust. Then move them to the baking soda solution to neutralize the acid. Finally place them in the trap dye solution until they are black. Let the traps air dry and then put them in plastic bags to keep clean. This process must be done outdoors due to the acid fumes. The lids can be put back on the acid and soda buckets for future use. Thanx to TEXAS TRAPLINE, April '86.

If you get your teenager to tell you everything, you'll soon be a nervous wreck.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Bill Dodson (Marfa, TX) retired March 31st. He had worked almost continuously for the Texas ADC program since 1942.

As in the case of most ADC people who just can't relax, he was given a few traps at his retirement party because he isn't going to quit cold turkey.

We have learned that of the 594 ADC employees in Interior, only 14 of them decided to stay with the USFWS rather shift to APHIS. Those who stayed include: (Reg. I) Regional Supervisor Cunningham, Hallway; (Reg. III) Regional Supervisor Town, Kuestler, Eric Nelson, McLaury, Shumann, De Capita; (Reg. IV) Freeman; (Reg. V) Atwell. We hate to lose those NADCA members.

Youth is stranger than fiction.

UPDATING PREDATOR LOSSES

In 1978 the USFWS summarized numerous studies that showed average losses to coyotes were 4-8% of lambs and 1-2.5% of ewes over the period 1972-78 for sheep producers in western states. Using those percentages, the calculated combined loss for 1977 was \$19-38 million.

Using new estimates from published studies of sheep, lamb, and goat losses to coyotes (2.4, 9.0, and 26.0%, respectively), the industry inventory, and livestock values, the estimated direct loss to predators in the 17 western states alone is \$60 million for 1984. Using a Univ. of Wyoming/FWS study, the indirect costs of predation were projected to be \$8 million added to the direct cost figure (goats were not included) of \$60 million. And this does not include the substantial expenditures on predator control by individuals and local, state, and Federal programs. Thanx to TEXAS TRAPLINE April 1986 and DENVER WILDLIFE RESEARCH CENTER.

Nowadays if you want to teach your kids the value of a dollar you'd better hurry up.

A SUCCESS STORY

Ohio Wildlife Officials believe that the State can maintain indefinitely an annual deer harvest of 50-60,000 whitetails. What is surprising about this is that the past season's take was 64,263 deer whereas two decades ago Ohio

Ohio hunters were bagging less than 500 per year. In the '60s, there were 20-30,000 deer hunters compared with 300,000 today.

Credit goes to the return of browse in the deer habitats. This return of habitat enables the state to issue 20,000 turkey permits and harvest some 1,500 birds per year. NRA newsletter.

The boss is not a bad guy unless you get to know him.

SIC 'EM

USFWS and the International Assn. of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) have gone against the Humane Society of the U.S. (HSUS). Last year, HSUS initiated legal action "...to end sport hunting on National Wildlife Refuges." The lawsuit challenges hunting of waterfowl, upland game, and big game on each of the approximately 250 refuges on which hunting is currently permitted on the grounds that refuges are havens for wildlife and not public hunting grounds. HSUS views, "...sport hunting, that is killing of animals for fun...", as a form of cruelty which should not be allowed on refuges. They say it causes grief to their members because enjoyment of the area is impaired by the knowledge that the animals they see there will be subject to hunting later. Affidavits submitted by HSUS members claim that the protectionists suffer feelings of anger, dismay, and sadness when they observe hunting on a refuge or see something like shell casings.

As a legal basis for the lawsuit, HSUS interprets the 1962 Refuge Recreation Act, 1966 Refuge Administration Act, Endangered Species Act, and National Environmental Policy Act as providing roadblocks to hunting on refuges. It says that at least seven separate written analyses or opinions are required before hunting may be allowed on any refuge. It has asked the court to prohibit hunting on refuges until this ton of paperwork is completed. Since federal law is crystal clear about hunting being a permitted activity on refuges, HSUS apparently wants to choke the administrative system with costly

paper work.

Neither Interior nor IAFWA thought kindly about this backdoor attempt to kick sportsmen off the refuges. In what may be the first really pro-hunting brief filed by Interior, counsel David Hardy noted numerous statutes where Congress singled out sport hunting as an authorized use of refuges. IAFWA noted that the plaintiffs may not sue on any 'injury' arising out of philosophical or moral objections to hunting; federal courts are not vehicles for the vindication of value interests; and that HSUS has no standing for complaining about members' recreational problems because its purpose in founding was to protect animals from cruelty, not its members' recreational interests. The suit is clearly frivolous, but who knows how the courts will rule. Thanx to OUTDOOR NEWS BULLETIN (Wildl. Mgt. Insti.) 40(8):1-2 (1986).

Employees are a "do-it-yourself" people. When told to do something, they say "do-it-yourself".

SO WHAT ELSE IS NEW ?

The Wildlife Management Institute points out the mess the federal government is in with its attempt to control farm production and abate soil erosion. They give an illustration of the USDA wanting to put 29,500 acres of land in Idaho in the new conservation reserve program created by the 1985 Farm Act. This pays landowners to retire erodible land from crop production, to reduce commodity surpluses and soil erosion. It pays up to \$50/acre/year for 10 years to rest the land. Meanwhile the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is planning to transfer 72,000 acres of public rangeland to private interests for sodbusting and crop production under the 1877 Desert Land Act. This in contrast to the above 1985 Farm Act which not only withdraws land from production but contains a provision to prevent sodbusting.

While USDA and BLM work at cross purposes, the Bureau of Reclamation is spending more tax money on Idaho's Minidoka Project which is designed to bring 9,000 additional acres of desert

land into farming by providing irrigation water. It is really pathetic that Congressional committees and Federal agencies can't communicate with each other. It would be easier on the taxpayer. Thanx to OUTDOOR NEWS BULLETIN, 40(8):3 (1986).

Rope climbers really rope themselves together to keep the sensible ones from going home.

CAUGHT IN THEIR OWN TRAP

Animal Rights activists protesting the USDA order requiring the branding of dairy cows purchased under the federal "whole herd" buyout subsidy ran afoul of the law when caught mistreating a dairy calf they planned to use in their demonstration. The group which calls itself the Farm Animal Reform Movement (FARM -real cute, huh ?) purchased a 3-4 month old calf in Maryland and trucked it to a demonstration site beside the USDA administration building in D.C. However, they forgot to give it ventilation or water and it was near death when discovered by U.S. Park Police.

The police revived it and turned it over to the Humane Society. What happened after is very hazy. The Washington animal shelter director, Jan Marks, says her group has filed no charges yet, but the matter is under investigation. She is also vague about the rumor that our "friend", Cleveland Amory, was involved. The only name that has emerged has been Alex Hershaft, apparent leader of FARM. He is quoted as dismissing the entire matter with a charge the Park Police "wanted to embarrass us."

If so the officers' success was mostly local. As could be expected media coverage has been scant outside of the D.C. area and what there was elsewhere was mostly sympathetic to the protesters, downplaying or even ignoring the confiscation and the treatment that provoked it. Thanx to RD Milt Caroline and LIVESTOCK WEEKLY, 17 Apr 86, p6.

Under the same heading, Teddy Kennedy returning from a trip with his bodyguard tried to enter the Senate Office

Building. The bodyguard took a couple of large weapons out and asked the Capitol guard, "Can I check these with you ?" The Capitol guard said, "Yes, and you're under arrest." It's the law in D.C. that if you're in possession of any guns you're automatically under arrest.

Senator Kennedy was enraged as they led his bodyguard away. This rage was noted by some less awed by the Kennedy mystique who remarked that it may have been the first time Teddy encountered a situation he couldn't fix. After all D.C. is not Boston and this was the first time he personally felt the effects of gun control legislation of which he is an enthusiastic advocate.

Thanx to John Maestrelli APHIS, Sacramento, CA. and the SACRAMENTO UNION, 11 Feb. 86.

*Don't worry about making money first.
The trick is to make it last.*

REMEMBER THE RABBIT THAT ATTACKED PRESIDENT CARTER ?

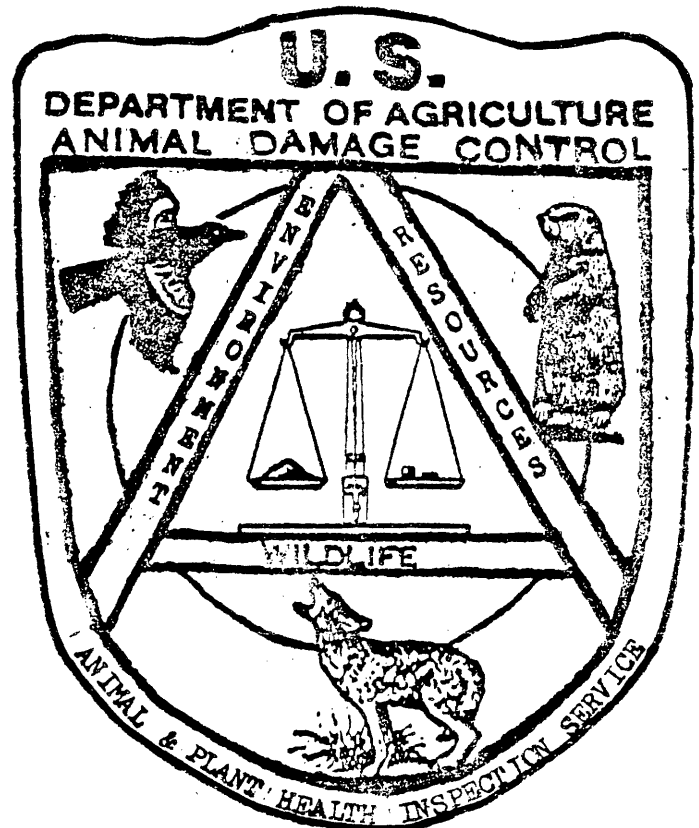
La Puente (CA) just experienced a brush with a woman-eating squirrel. It all started on a Wednesday when Alicia Sanchez was hanging out her laundry. A squirrel leaped on her and began biting and scratching both her arms, forcing her to run inside the house. A few hours later and two doors away, Fidelina Bandera was on her front porch when the squirrel latched on to her left index finger and refused to let go. Her mother pulled the squirrel off and threw it on the ground. It got up and charged the mother biting her on her left side. Both women fled into the house. Then Friday the police were called by Antonia Magallanec, who had the squirrel run up her dress and bite her on the shoulder. When they got there it was attacking a fireman. They chased it for about 10 minutes during which the squirrel briefly held a pit bulldog at bay. They finally got it up a tree and squirted it with chloroform. Needless to say county health authorities were trying to find the cause of the squirrel's courage. Thanx to John Maestrelli APHIS, Sacramento, CA and the

SACRAMENTO UNION, 13 Apr 86.

Learn by experience - hopefully the other fellow's.

LOGOS

Jimmy Pitts (APHIS, Chouteau, OK) brought to my attention the need for a distinctive logo for ADC. We didn't object too much to the USFWS insignia, but I just saw the APHIS one and am strongly in favor of anything else as I hate those stylistic designs. Following this is Jimmy's ambitious design. It might be a little busy, but the copy he sent me in color is very attractive. If you have any suggestions on a logo design please get in touch with Norm Johnson (for the western states) or Buddy Abraham (for the eastern states).



Craig Swanson New Richmond (WI) wanted an NADCA sticker and I returned his money reluctantly. I had toyed with the idea when Dick Thompson showed me a yellow dog T-shirt, but figured it would be more of a hassle than I needed. However, a shoulder patch or a bumper sticker shouldn't be too difficult or expensive and would give NADCA some publicity. Let me know what your thoughts are on this and particularly any designs you think would be

appropriate. I kinda like our PROBE coyote and the finger-giving saguaro. As this is too western oriented, I would put in a border of cartooned other species we encounter.

Some folks aren't paid what they're worth and they should be delighted.

RAISE WILD HORSES

Financially distressed agriculture can be rescued. The government has thousands of wild horses in corrals and reports it costs \$832/horse/year for feed. The solution: all farmers feed wild horses for the government. The price of hay is no problem for the government with IRS dollars flowing in. Imagine the fun of feeding \$100/ton hay. At first they could allot 100 head of government wild horses per farmer. This would give farmers an additional \$83,200 yearly with guaranteed profit and it could be turned into a government wild horse breeding program in corrals.

Now some conservative or Republican will ask, what are they going to do with the horses ? Answer, just what they're doing now, raise more horses. At 100 head per farm, think of the millions of horses for this program. Any surplus could be fed to black-footed ferrets and the wolves they are proposing to release in Yellowstone Park. When government goes broke, which it's going to, they could give a million horses to each ecology group who got the government horse program started with our vote-buying Congress. Any leftover could be given as foreign aid. The bill for give-away foreign aid goes to the U.S. taxpayer and there will be no taxpayers when they have nothing to pay taxes on or with. Maybe we can all get jobs as government advisors to raise wild horses in corrals.

Write your congressman and tell them how proud you are of the BLM wild horse feeding program so we can get this plan started. Thanx to RD Norton Miner and the BILLINGS CAZETTE, 2 Feb. 86.

Hard work is all those easy things you should have done last week.

THE BLACK-FOOTED FERRET

The newspaper clippings on the rare black-footed ferret have been pouring in from RD Norton Miner and Lyle Crosby (WY Dept. of Agriculture) so that I can't ignore it anymore and need to clean out my files.

The biggest known colony of these animals is in Meeteetse (WY). The discovery of the colony was made in 1981 when Lucille Hogg's dog dropped the carcass of a ferret on her back porch. When the word got out there was panic in the town of Meeteetse (Pop. 500). In a region where everyone makes a living from the land, it would be hard not to feel threatened by the array of federal and state rules for the protection of endangered species. Wildlife officers can halt oil drilling cattle grazing, pipeline laying, hunting, etc. if such activities endanger one of the 382 species on elite list. Ranchers who want unimpeded use of their land have been known to keep such findings to themselves. Even "shooting and shoveling" to dispose of an unwanted bald eagle or grizzly bear lest some environmentalist starts calling for a refuge on their land. However, the black-footed ferrets are appealing and do not pose a danger to livestock. The town of Meeteetse has taken the little critters to its bosom. It's woman's softball team is called "The Ferrettes". Lucille Hogg's cafe has a "Ferret's Den" for meetings. There are ferret baseball caps and an annual "Black-footed Ferret Foot Race". Leave it to America to commercialize anything.

The colony was estimated at 128 individuals in 1984 and this dropped to 30 in 1985. The DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE claim there are only 17 individuals left this year but the Wyoming Game & Fish Dept. says there is no reliable count. The discovery of canine distemper in this colony has prompted an emergency trapping program with the objective of starting a captive breeding colony. The project has been hampered by a jurisdictional dispute between Wyoming G&F and USFWS. The former want to keep the project in Wyoming while USFWS want to move it back east. In addition to

the distemper problem, plague knocked off 15-20% of the prairie dog population which are the mainstay of the predatory ferret.

Wyoming G&F has apparently won the battle to keep the animal in the State. They received support from, believe it or not, the CBSG (Captive Breeding Specialists Group - Boy! We've got an organization for anything.). So it appears that the Sybille Research Unit in Albany County (WY) will be the center of the breeding program efforts. The cost of the project is \$285,795 with \$234,827 coming from the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973. If the program is successful, they intend to transplant the ferrets around the country and put more prairie dog colonies off-limits for ADC.

Nothing puts weight on a fish like fishing alone.

LETTERS TO YE ED

"Just returned from 3 months in India, Thailand, and Malaysia. I suspect India's problems with rats in coconuts, rice, and grain storage are just as bad now as when you were there. Surprisingly, the health professionals I talked with thought rat-borne disease problems were minor concerns; they were more concerned with rabies! Bird problems at airports are probably extensive. Vegetation management seemed unrefined and vultures and other birds cruised the airport at their leisure (This gave me a queasy feeling whenever I was at an Indian airport).

Malaysia has problems with rats and squirrels in coconuts, oil palms, and rice. There appeared to be a lot of grower awareness about the economics of the problem and different ways to reduce the severity of damage. At the National Museum in K.L. there was even a large poster display featuring the advantages of integrated pest management, with several boards devoted to prevention of rat damage! I also had the opportunity to chat with the director of airport operations in the Bangkok International Airport; bird problems are rare, and they have contracted with a local

university to study bird migration and movement patterns in the airport environment. Currently, the security forces are in charge of scaring the birds away... I wondered if they use their machine-guns!" Bob Schmidt Univ. Calif.-Davis.

"Thanks for the info about the Eastern WDC Conf. I have sent for the Proc. Sorry I could not hear some of the bird-type papers. Sound interesting. I do try and stay up on things related to my far-out interest in urban bird problems. Despite my not actively working in the field lately, my "fame" lingers on and I run into people in the strangest places and situations who remember me "when". Fame is wonderful - so is retirement". Sally Erdman rtd. blackbird stomper, Denton, TX.

"I was truly sorry to learn of your "TROUBLES" the past couple of years. If I had had such serious problems, I'm sure I would have stopped editing "The Probe". I enjoy the newsletter very much, even used one of your corny jokes, "A weed is a pain in the grass", in a recent training course discussing pesticides. As a teacher I look forward to notices of new literature, like the ICI publication (a \$3.00 bargain), Jeff Jackson's fine "Snakes of the Southeastern U.S.", or Bob Timm's very valuable "Prevention and Control of Wildlife Damage." Sincere wishes for better health - - I remember fondly the few times we've worked together." Dr. Harry D. Pratt rtd. USPHS CDC, Atlanta, GA.

"Just thought you might be interested in the enclosed article which appeared in the WALL STREET JOURNAL (see MORE PROBLEMS FOR RED RIDING HOOD). We are going to have problems with wolves if FWS continues their drive to restock the country. It is hard to accept that some 200 years of control effort is going to be undone in the name of "endangered species"." Gary Simmons APHIS, Hyattsville, MD.

"I have been using a mixture of cayenne, garlic, biodegradable detergent, and water to keep birds off seedlings for years." J.P. Bernhard Rancher, Clovis, CA..

Bald men like it that way. When company comes, all they have to do is straighten their ties.

MORE PROBLEMS FOR RED RIDING HOOD

Warren Parker, USFWS, is looking for a home to relocate red wolves in the wild. He got turned down on a release site along the Kentucky-Tennessee border. The farmers objected to the addition of another predator on their livestock and the environmentalists objected to the need for trapping coyotes out of the area to keep the strain pure. But Parker thinks he has a hot one in North Carolina's Outer Banks. The residents of the 4 small communities in this area are mostly fishermen and trappers and not afraid of this little wolf. One resident suggested they turn them loose near his mother-in-law's place and another said, "As long as I can dog-hunt I don't care if they turn a rhinoceros loose."

FWS plans to outfit the chosen six with space-age dog collars that transmit radio signals to a satellite to locate the animal's precise location instantaneously. The collar also holds a microcomputer to store information on the animal's health or habits. It would also have a remote-controlled tranquillizer dart for emergencies and an explosive bolt to remove the collar when the experiment ends. Probably the gear on each animal costs more than my car. Thanx to Gary Simmons APHIS, Hyattsville, MD and WALL STREET JOURNAL, 1 Apr 86.

Squeaking wheels may get the grease, but empty wagons make the most noise.

MEETIN' BE THERE !

June 23 - Ottawa, Canada: BIRDS AS PESTS IN AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY, & URBAN AREAS. This is a round table discussion during the 19 International Ornithological Congress. Contact: Richard Dolbeer,

APHIS, 6100 Columbus Ave., Sandusky, OH 44870.

Nepotism is not so bad if you keep it in the family.

STATE PLANS BATTLE AGAINST RATS

The Chinese government has a new battle plan against rats but will probably not make anymore headway than they had with previous plans. They claim that 2 billion rats were killed in the last 3 years, but 3 billion still survive. These eat some 15 million tons of grain a year, 1.3% of the grain China produces, besides spreading serious epidemic diseases. A survey in Beijing shows mice have invaded 50% of the homes, 52% of the catering services, and over 50% of the city's chicken and duck farms. (CHINA DAILY, v.5, #1393) (I think they are even better at picking figures out of the air than us capitalists).

Their "new" plan, however, is the same old tired story. They will hold classes and lectures on methods of killing the rodents, the importance of "ecological balance", and epidemic disease prevention. Lecturers from research institutes and universities will speak on when, where, and with what means people can exterminate the pests. They will launch the campaign in the early Spring (the poorest time) and they blame the sharp increase of rodents on (1) negligence of local authorities, (2) mass killings of owls, yellow weasels, and snakes, and (3) use of arsenic and other highly poisonous chemicals by the farmers which killed the cats by secondary poisoning. (And these are the people who invented gun powder ?). Thanx to Dr. Bill Jackson Bowling Green, OH.

If you pay as you go you may not get back.

THIS PUBLICATION IS INTENDED AS AN INFORMAL NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS OF NADCA. IT IS NOT AN OFFICIAL DECLARATION OF NADCA POLICY OR A CONSENSUS OF OPINION IN ALL INSTANCES.

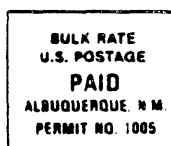
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